

The Christian and Thankfulness

Selected Scriptures

1. Thankfulness is **Ultimately** to be Directed Toward God
God is the creator of everything that has been created (John 1:1-3), and all people know this to be true (Ps. 19:1ff; Rom. 1:18-20). True thanksgiving for anything that we have or experience is properly directed to God Himself.
2. Thankfulness is **Continually** to be Given to God
Eternity with God will be a filled with thanksgiving to God by all who dwell with Him (Rev. 4:9; 7:12; 11:17; 19:15). He will continue to hold all things together (Col. 1:17) and He will always be the savior of men (Matt. 1:21).
3. Thankfulness is **Apparent** at Conversion (Col. 2:6-7; cf. Luke 17:16)
Salvation necessarily requires a confession of guilt and an agreement that God's judgment is just (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Inasmuch as thankfulness to God is characteristic of conversion (Col. 2:6-7; cf. Luke 17:16), the absence of thankfulness is distinctive of those who do not believe in God (Rom. 1:21).
4. Thankfulness is **Characteristic** of Devotion (Col. 3:15-17)
Christians are encouraged to continue following Christ in the way in which they began (Col. 2:6; cf. Gal. 3:3). Thankfulness is to permeate all aspects of the Christian life.
 - A. Rooted in our **Convictions** (Col. 3:15)
Peace with God is an immediate and irrevocable blessing for the Christian (Rom. 5:1). This is to be one of the governing realities of life and it will result in continual disposition of thankfulness to God.
 - B. Descriptive of our **Actions** (Col. 3:16)
In the Scriptures, the center of emotions was in the gut (cf. Phil. 1:8), whereas the heart is the seat of all mental, physical, and spiritual life. When God's Word is valued (Ps. 19:10; 119:72, 127) and meditated upon (Ps. 119:11, 14-16), teaching, correction, and singing will be marked by thankfulness.
 - C. Evident in our **Professions** (Col. 3:17)
Whereas other aspects of the life of the believer may not be clearly understood as thankful (vs. 15-16), the Christian will give all credit to God and thanks to God in whatever we do.